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Neighbours tell of 'nightmare' as prostitute is fined £500

SEX SOLD IN QUIET CLOSE

By Oliver Evans

A 21-YEAR-OLD sex worker has been fined for allowing her Banbury home to be used for prostitution.

Neighbours spoke of their ordeal after Barbara Bicka was told to pay £500 for allowing her terraced Orchard Close home to be used to sell sex.

She admitted working as a prostitute at the £700-a-month rented house along with an unidentified blonde woman last year. They have now left.

Mohamed Sheikh, prosecuting at Oxford Magistrates' Court, said: "The property itself was being used as a brothel."

"Services were being advertised in *The Banbury Guardian* and individuals were attending the property for the purposes of paying prostitutes for the purposes of consensual intercourse."

Robin Harrison, defending, said Bicka and a blonde he named only as Dobromila worked from the house for two to three months. Bicka was arrested in May.

He said she lived in London after arriving from her home country of Poland and was invited to Banbury by a friend who lived in the town.

Bicka, of Horspath Road, Oxford, admitted allowing part of the home to be used for the purposes of habitual prostitution.

A neighbour in the cul-de-sac, who did not want to be named, said: "It was

a nightmare, it turned our life upside down."

The mother of two teenage girls said visitors came at all hours, and added: "This is a sweet little close and it was awful."

"People were knocking on the wrong doors, my daughter was approached, it was horrid. We had to change bedrooms because of the noise."

And she hit out at the sentence, saying: "It just gives the message 'come to this country, do what you like and we will give you a slap on the wrist'."

One 24-year-old resident said: "It felt a bit seedy, seeing men walking up the street, knowing what they were going for."

Mother-of-four Shanaz Begum said: "It was difficult. There were a lot of unknown people coming to this area which was not good for the families."

Mr Harrison said in court that Bicka has £1,000 savings, adding: "She doesn't work and she relies on the assistance of her father."

Bicka previously denied a more serious charge of keeping a brothel, which was then dropped by prosecutors.

She was fined £500 on Friday and told to pay £85 costs and a victims' surcharge of £15. District judge Tim Pattinson gave her credit for a guilty plea and said a financial penalty was "appropriate".

He then said: "Miss Bicka, I don't know if you are chewing in court. You shouldn't be."

Bicka apologised and removed the gum.



Barbara Bicka arrives at Oxford Magistrates' Court



**Town Hall in line for
facelift – Page 3**

**Fight for
compensation
as high-speed
rail link is
given the
go-ahead –
Page 8**



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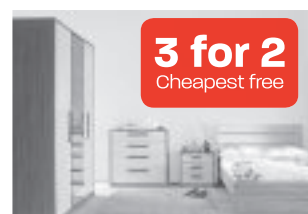
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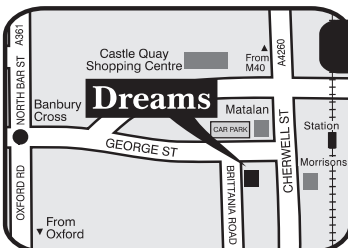
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■ Revamp to include new meeting room, bigger kitchen and a lift

£50,000 facelift for town's historic hall



Banbury Town Council's Kieron Mallon, left, and George Parrish at Banbury Town Hall

BANBURY Town Hall is to undergo a £500,000 revamp in a bid to make it a major venue for local groups and events.

The Banbury Town Council project will refurbish the Bridge Street premises and provide a new meeting room, kitchen and lift to the basement.

It is hoped this will overcome major obstacles to it being used for events such as weddings and conferences.

Council leader Kieron Mallon said the lift would enable stacks of chairs to be easily stored in the basement, while the kitchen would meet catering needs.

Conservative Mr Mallon said the town hall was one of Banbury's "foremost listed buildings".

He said: "We want this to be the focal point of the town. This will make it far more attractive."

It is hoped work will start at the

By Oliver Evans

Grade II listed Bridge Street building in the spring for an autumn unveiling.

Mr Mallon said: "We think there aren't enough conference and social spaces in the town so this is another reason why we are doing it."

The cash has been set aside by the council and Mr Mallon said his group was planning for no increase in its share of the council tax, about £122 a year.

George Parrish, the council's sole Labour councillor, backed the move.

He said: "Over the years the town council has overseen work that has maintained the town hall in a satisfactory condition, but more needs to be done."

"The town hall is a magnificent building and should be a source of pride. I'm looking forward to see-

ing the work completed."

Cherwell District Council officers have approved the scheme.

The building dates to the mid 19th Century and was handed from Cherwell District Council to the town council, formed in 2000.

The town council then spent about £300,000 on major structural repairs and renovation, including a redecoration of the main hall.

This opened up the minstrels' gallery in the main hall, a balcony designed for bands to play at functions.

The new plans will move staff from a back, ground floor room into an enlarged reception area, freeing up the room for hire.

A small ground floor kitchen will be converted into offices and a lift added in the place of a ground floor meeting room.

The kitchen will be added to a first floor meeting room.

Banbury Cake

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Mixed fortunes for stores in financial trouble

WORKERS at a local Millets outdoor store have been offered a glimmer of hope after their firm's parent company hit financial trouble.

Bosses at Blacks Leisure have confirmed the business will go into administration after failing to find an outright buyer.

But the company, which has a store in Banbury, hopes to salvage most of the business after receiving offers for parts of the group.

It is hoped a deal will help save many of the jobs by allowing buyers to cherry-pick its best stores.

But in the High Street, the La Senza lingerie store is set to close. The troubled company's website says the store is among 81 earmarked for the axe after it applied to go into administration.

A member of staff said they had been told it would close but could not confirm when.

Finance specialist KPMG has

been appointed to handle the sale.

It follows the news that toy shop Hawkin's Bazaar, which has an outlet in Banbury, has also gone into administration.

Meanwhile, a new buyer has been found to take over a local clothes shop whose parent company, A&H Menswear (Retail) Ltd, had gone into administration this month.

Blue Inc has bought the D2 branch in Castle Quay, Banbury, along with 18 other UK stores.

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Car seller buys garage to create 'beacon'

Pressing all the Jensen buttons

By Andrew Smith

A FAMOUS British motoring name has had its Oxfordshire foundations strengthened further.

Gama Cars, based in Banbury, has acquired the Cropredy Bridge Garage from owner Bob Cherry, meaning both the production and resale of restored and re-engineered Jensen cars will come together under one roof at Cropredy.

Cropredy Bridge has been restoring all Jensen cars since it was founded in 1972, even before the original company collapsed in 1976, and Mr Cherry will continue as a consultant.

Meanwhile, Gama's Banbury operation will concentrate on other motorsport projects.

Backed by Thame-based Jensen International Automotive, Gama relaunched the Interceptor R model in the UK a year ago.

Gama managing director Matt Watts said: "We already had a close relationship with Cropredy Bridge



Gama Cars managing director Matt Watts, right, with technical director Gregg Alvarez

Garage because of the workshop's facilities and skilled staff.

"When the opportunity arose, it made sense to incorporate it into the business and offer the entire range of services, larger facilities and combined expertise to Jensen customers.

"We look forward to ensuring we are the marque's beacon."

The original Jensen car manufacturer dates back to 1934 when the company was founded in West Bromwich. Production of luxury and sports cars flourished after the Second World War, most famously with the Interceptor. But the company got into financial difficulty in the 1970s, and ceased trading in 1976.



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■ Cherwell won't say how much it will pay towards county scheme

Dial-a-ride to face making service cuts

By Oliver Evans

DIAL-A-RIDE services could be hit by cuts to operating hours after three district councils in Oxfordshire refused to stump up any cash.

The door-to-door service for OAPs and the disabled will operate from 10am-3pm instead of 9am-5pm in Oxford and south of the county under latest plans.

Currently, Oxfordshire councils spend about £470,000 on the service, but how it is managed is being changed.

Oxfordshire County Council will be solely responsible from April, the start of the 2012/13 financial year.

While it will continue to put in £160,000 and keep the service free for the eligible, three of Oxfordshire's five district councils are set to put in no extra cash.

The three, Oxford City Council, Vale of White Horse and South Oxfordshire district councils, would then only get the 10am-3pm service.

And they would also only get one bus a day for four days. Oxford currently has two a day, with one in Vale and none in South.

While the operator, along with final details of how the scheme will



Paul Cann of Age UK Oxfordshire

run, have yet to be agreed, fears are growing about the impact on the service.

Age UK Oxfordshire spokesman Paul Cann said: "We are very concerned that this vital link for older people appears to be under threat.

"This is exactly the wrong way to go if we want to keep our older citizens active and healthy."

Cherwell District Council this year spent £188,000 on its Dial-a-ride service, run by Banburyshire Community Transport Association.

But the 2012/13 figure, to be paid to the county will be well below this, said Ken Attack, cabinet member for financial management.

He would not give a sum but said: "If the service is not deemed to be as good as it could be then we would make available the additional monies."

The 2012-13 Dial-a-ride hours for

Cherwell will not be known until the figure is agreed.

And a £30,000 grant to the Citizens' Advice Bureau would help to set up a network of private car drivers to help the needy, he said.

Banbury Dial-a-ride user, Dot Wilkins, said she would not be able to afford a £14 return taxi fare to see husband Arthur, 88, in his Adderbury nursing home if her bus was cut.

The 88-year-old said: "I just don't know what the council is thinking about wanting to not give them the money. It is well spent."

Deputy city leader, Labour's Ed Turner, said: "It is a core county responsibility and they ought to fund it."

Vale leader Matthew Barber said the county service would be "adequate" and "broadly the same". The South said officers were recommending no extra cash.

West Oxfordshire is set to approve an "appropriate level" of funding, no more than the £29,400 it is spending this year, which bosses say will maintain the service.

County council transport spokesman Rodney Rose said: "Everybody has to take a bit of the pain, you can't suddenly say one group shouldn't take any."



Dial-a-ride user Dot Wilkins, 82, from Banbury

InBRIEF

No cases of superbug

■ NO CASES of the MRSA infection were recorded at the county's hospital authority in November, new figures show.

Eight cases were recorded since January last year at Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust, which runs Oxford's John Radcliffe and Churchill hospitals and Banbury's Horton Hospital.

Take part in charity swim

■ BANBURY-BASED charity Dogs for the Disabled wants fundraisers to take part in the Great North Swim, in the Lake District on June 23-24.

Call 01295 252600, visit dogsforthe-disabled.org or go to events@dogsforthe-disabled.org

Flytipper sought after rubbish is dumped

A FLYTIPPER is being hunted after dumping a large amount of rubble next to a country road near Banbury.

The culprit dumped a large number of blue tiles and other rubbish near Drift Lane, between Hornton and Wroxton.

Cherwell District Council officials believe

it would have required a van or large vehicle or several trips in a car to dump so much.

Council leader Barry Council said: "If the person responsible for the dumping of this material is not found, taxpayers in the district will end up footing the clear-up bill.

"Disposal of this kind

of material should really be done by a reputable firm. If someone employed a contractor in good faith to dispose of this rubble, they should let us know and they may be able to avoid prosecution."

Anyone transporting construction waste must hold a waste

carriers' licence.

It is believed the rubbish was left between 12.30pm and 1.30pm on Monday, December 19.

Any witnesses or anyone with information about the origin of the rubble should call Cherwell District Council on 01295 227007.



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InBRIEF**£19k webcast will carry on**

■ A MONEY-SAVING suggestion from staff, to axe online videos of council meetings, should not be pursued, it has been recommended.

Cherwell District Council asked its staff to come up with ideas how it should save cash as it faces a budget cut from £15.8m this year to £14.7m next year.

One employee suggested scrapping the £19,415-a-year video service – which January figures show were used by 643 people.

But the resources and performance scrutiny board said: "Members agreed that webcasting of meetings was a valuable communication tool."

It also refused to back ending the "invaluable" street wardens service.

New head at town school

■ BANBURY'S Blessed George Napier Catholic School welcomed a new headteacher at the start of the term last week.

Former deputy headteacher Fraser Long has taken over from Catherine Weaver, who retired last month.

■ Stalwart records movement's key local moments in a new book

Trevor Parry with a copy of his book; right, Mr Parry, at his first camp, in Broughton Park, in the Easter of 1948

Scout history saved forever

LIFELONG Scout Trevor Parry has drawn on eight decades of 'being prepared' to compile a definitive history of the movement in north Oxfordshire.

The 74-year-old used his own knowledge and the Scouts' extensive London archive to write *Scouting For Banbury's Boys*.

The illustrated 96-page book records the history of Scouting in north Oxfordshire, tracing its earliest recorded origins in 1909 to the present day.

He joined the 2nd Banbury (Methodist) Scouts in 1948 and the book includes a picture of him on his first camp that year, at Broughton Park.

Mr Parry went on to become its Group Scout Leader and even lined the route for The Queen's 1953 Coronation.

By 1969, he was the Banbury district commissioner and, 14 years later, was made deputy county commissioner, and later county treasurer.

He said: "It means everything to me. I have devoted my adult life to the

By Oliver Evans

movement because its aims and ideals are superb.

"It may be 100 years old but its aims and ideals are as appropriate today as they ever were."

Core values of trust and honesty still run through the Scouts today, the retired accountant said, although the format of the movement has changed radically.

He said: "It has changed, we don't take stones out of horses' hooves, for one!

"We do more modern things that children and young people would expect, like computer skills."

Some of the risk-taking enjoyed by Scouts in

years gone by had been lost, he said.

The grandfather-of-four said: "Many of the older skills which we more or less took for granted would be quite an adventure today."

"As a lad, in the morning I would have to light a fire. Now young people are not used to using matches."

The existence of a 1932 silent film made by district Scouts was a valuable find, he said, though the film itself could sadly not be located.

Mr Parry also documents the "disastrous" effect the Second World War had on groups as leaders fought overseas or took part in air raid or Home Guard duties.

He said of the book: "I felt that it was overdue because I felt before another generation died it should be put on record."

It is available from Waterstones in Banbury and from Mr Parry at Boundary House, 1 Sycamore Drive, Banbury, OX16 9HF.



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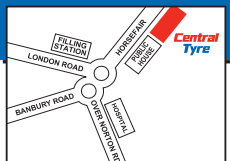
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■ Baldry to fight for rail link compensation

MP's pledge on HS2 cash

By Sam McGregor

BANBURY'S MP is unconvinced the business case for the controversial HS2 rail link stacks up and pledged to fight for compensation.

It comes as the Government on Tuesday signalled the go-ahead for the £32bn High Speed Rail link, which will affect villages in North Oxfordshire and the Northamptonshire border, including Fimmere and Mixbury.

It made a series of changes to the 140-mile route between London and Birmingham, including new tunnels, or extensions to already-planned tunnels, at Greatworth, Chipping Warden and Aston le Walls in Northamptonshire, and Turweston in Buckinghamshire.

This first £16.4bn phase, introducing 225mph trains and cutting London-Birmingham journey times to 49 minutes, would be completed in 2026.

A second phase, taking HS2 to Manchester and Leeds in a Y-shaped route, would be completed around 2032/33.

North Oxfordshire MP Tony Baldry pledged to ensure the economics of the project were fully investigated, that proper compensa-



Banbury MP Tony Baldry

tion was in place and any mitigation, such as noise barriers, were built.

Mr Baldry said: "I will continue to ensure the concerns of my constituents and local organisation are heard.

"I will also be seeking to ensure that the maximum mitigation measures are planned along the route, and will also look very carefully and closely to what the Secretary of State said in respect of compensation.

"It is clear there is going to be a new compensation scheme for householders affected by the possibility or actuality of HS2, and we need to look at the detail and how it can be improved."

Lizzie Williams, of Stop HS, who lives in Culworth, said the tunnel at

Chipping Warden would improve the impact "slightly", but added the wider scheme was damaging to the countryside.

She said: "I think it's devastating."

The Campaign to Protect Rural England said it was unconvinced HS2 was the least damaging way to meet the needs of a growing population and economy.

And campaign group 51M, made up of councils from along the route, including Cherwell District Council and Oxfordshire County Council, will consider a legal challenge.

Michael Gibbard, Cherwell's lead member for planning, said: "We have always considered this project an enormous white elephant and are disappointed by the decision."

Announcing the decision, Transport Secretary Justine Greening said: "The faster journeys on HS2 – Edinburgh and Glasgow will be just 3.5 hours from London – could transfer around 4.5 million journeys per year who might otherwise have travelled by air and nine million from the roads.

"HS2 will also create more rail capacity on existing conventional speed lines for freight – removing lorries from our busy trunk roads. HS2 is therefore an important part of transport's low-carbon future."

Marina plans backed despite local protests

TWO controversial marina plans for Cropredy have been approved.

Cherwell District Council's planning committee last week backed plans for marinas cut into land off the Oxford Canal at School Lane and Claydon Road.

Some residents objected, with concerns over extra traffic and the

look of the schemes.

Cropredy Parish Council supported the plan for 249 moorings and 129 spaces off Claydon Road but opposed the School Lane plan, for 31 moorings and 21 spaces.

Chairman Paul Morely told district councillors on the latter: "It will harm what was once an attractive approach to

the village."

Cropredy Primary School governor Mark Simmons warned: "If the school is less attractive and attracts fewer residents as a result, the economic impact could be significant in a most damaging way."

A further 44 people opposed the plan.

But committee member Debbie Pickford

said: "I think it would be good for the economy of Cropredy.

"It is good to have tourists, visitors, particularly in these bad times and I think most of these things probably outweigh the disadvantages."

British Waterways said that both of the schemes were essential to free up space on canals.

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■ **SHAUN BIGNELL**, 26, of Springfield Avenue, Banbury, admitted stealing jewellery in November between October 18 and November 4 and commission of a further offence while subject to a suspended sentence. Fined £150, a £15 victims' surcharge and £20 costs because "unjust to activate suspended sentence. Important for defendant to complete the domestic-violence programmes currently on his suspended sentence order".

■ **MARK RYAN**, 31, of Ferriton, Banbury, admitted having an

imitation firearm, namely a BB gun, in Highlands, Hardwick, Banbury, on December 3. Fined £250, a £15 victims' surcharge and £85 costs.

■ **MOHAMMED BASHARAT**, 33, of West Street, Banbury, admitted possession of cannabis and a CS incapacitant spray in Banbury on November 30. Fined £125 and a £15 victims' surcharge.

■ **JAMES PROUT**, 19, of Weaves Row, Shutford, near Banbury, admitted having an offensive weapon, namely a knuckle duster, in public, and drink-driving on the

InCOURT

A361 at Bloxham on November 27. Namely having 88 microgrammes of alcohol in 100ml of breath, above the legal limit of 35 microgrammes. Fined £325, £50 costs and a £15 victims' surcharge. Banned from driving for 20 months.

■ **ROBERT WILTSHIRE**, 28, of Sinclair Avenue, Banbury, admitted possessing cannabis (Class B) in Banbury on November 28. Fined

£135, a £15 victims' surcharge and £85 costs.

■ **GARETH ALDERMAN**, 21, of Mawle Court, Banbury, admitted stealing a pedal cycle on October 3, failing to comply with a suspended sentence order by failing to attend the Thinking Skills programme on November 22 and failing to surrender to court bail on November 14. Jailed for five weeks.

■ **GEORGE O'DONOGHUE**, 30, of Samuelson Court, Banbury, admitted failing to comply with a community order by being absent from the

specified place of a curfew on four occasions. Original offence of assault by beating resentenced. Jailed for five weeks due to his having "removed tag on two occasions and was absent for seven days".

■ **DANIEL HANWELL**, 18, of Middle Road, Banbury, admitted shoplifting a set of headphones from HMV in Banbury on December 2 and three crates of lager from Tesco in Banbury on December 1. Given 80 hours' unpaid work and told to pay £21 compensation.

Traffic fatalities falling Record low for deaths

By Laura Jones

ROAD traffic deaths in Oxfordshire are at their lowest level since records began.

Statistics from Oxfordshire County Council show 26 people died in road traffic collisions in Oxfordshire during 2011, compared to 41 people killed the year before.

And it also looks likely that the number of people seriously injured on the county's roads will have dropped by the end of this year.

Figures for January 1 to November 30, 2011, show 270 people were seriously injured. During the whole of 2010, 354 people were seriously injured in crashes.

Of those 26 people killed this year, 11 were aged 25 and under.

Lisa Wills, from Bloxham, who lost two family members in that age group in separate crashes in Broughton and North Newington, welcomed the news that road deaths had fallen.

She said: "I feel strongly about getting the safety message out."



Lisa Wills

Despite the declining number of crash deaths and serious injuries, Chief Inspector for Roads Policing, Gill Wootton, vowed that the force would keep trying to make the roads safer.

She said: "I am really pleased to see that the number of fatal and serious injury collisions in Oxfordshire have reduced this year."

"This means that there are fewer families that will have to suffer the loss of a loved one and less people who will have to live with the long-term effects of life changing injuries."

"However, every life lost is one too many for us."



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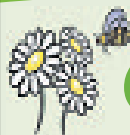
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InBRIEF

Hunt for New Year attacker

■ A TEENAGER was knocked unconscious and two others were hurt when they were beaten up in High Street, Banbury.

The three victims were attacked early on New Year's Day outside the Post Office.

An 18-year-old woman was knocked out, a 26-year-old woman was hit in the face and a 29-year-old man also suffered cuts and bruising to his face.

Their attacker is described as being a black man, about 5ft 8in tall, in his early 20s, slim, with cropped dark hair and he was wearing a purple checked shirt.

Anyone with any information should call Pc Ray Wood on 101 or the Crimestoppers charity on 0800 555111.

College plan gets go-ahead

■ PLANNERS have approved major plans to transform Banbury's Oxford & Cherwell Valley College.

Cherwell District Council's planning committee last week backed the scheme for an extension for a media studies facility and a new car workshop building.

It is part of long-term plans to move all facilities from the north to the south side of Broughton Road. The northern site would be sold and about 110 homes may be built there.

OAP accused of case theft

■ A 71-year-old man appeared before Banbury magistrates, charged with theft by finding, after being accused of stealing a red suitcase at Charlbury railway station.

Pavel Acasandrei, of no fixed address, was remanded in custody and will appear in court tomorrow.

Workshop blaze drama

■ TWENTY firefighters were called to a blaze at a Banbury industrial estate.

The fire took hold at a car workshop at the Wildmere Industrial Estate in Acorn Way at about 5.15am on Saturday. A car and machinery were destroyed.

Man admits wallet charge

■ A 21-YEAR-OLD man has admitted handling stolen goods in Banbury.

James Waszak appeared at Oxford Crown Court on Friday where he admitted the charge. He handled a stolen Nike wallet and £270 cash on January 28, 2011.

Waszak, of Holyrood Road, Doncaster, was bailed to be sentenced later this month.

Horton Hospital's dedicated director set to retire

BANBURY'S Horton General Hospital is to lose its dedicated director after current holder Mike Fleming announced his retirement.

Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust said it will not replace Mr Fleming, who will step down at the end of March.

The trust, which is cutting its budget by 10 per cent, appointed Mr Fleming in 2003.

Last night, George Parrish, chairman of the Keep the Horton General campaign, said he was concerned as his group

successfully fought plans to downgrade maternity and children's services.

Mr Parrish said: "It doesn't seem a good idea. We need somebody like Mike to be there to speak to if we need anything. I am upset that he is leaving."

The trust said the role will be covered by its director of clinical services, Paul Brennan, who is usually based at the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford.

Mr Fleming, 56, said: "I have

worked with so many brilliant and dedicated people over my career, many of whom have had a major impact on my personal and working life."

NHS and training colleges were the "most fulfilling places to work", he said.

Trust chief executive Sir Jonathan Michael said: "Mike has made an enormous contribution to both the trust and the wider Oxfordshire healthcare system."

■ Services at the Horton's Treatment Centre will expand,

a healthcare firm has said, after it was re-awarded the contract by NHS bosses.

Ramsay Health Care UK has run the centre since it opened in 2006 to carry out orthopaedic procedures to take pressure off NHS hospitals.

Ramsay spokesman Mark Varian said 16- to 18-year-olds can now be seen and DEXA scanning, which measures calcium bone levels, was now available. Regular procedures include hip and knee operations.

■ 'Help - I've got a bit of cottonbud stuck in my ear'

999 staff tell of the 'crazy' calls

By Laura Jones

DRUNK people who dialled 999 for an ambulance to give them a lift home and other crazy calls for help are costing the NHS hundreds of thousands of pounds in Oxfordshire each year.

Now South Central Ambulance Service staff are pleading with the public to stop wasting their time and to use the emergency number responsibly after it was revealed it costs £257 each time an ambulance is called out.

In the past three months call centre staff and ambulance crews have dealt with a call from a young woman who had a headache after a night out, a man in Banbury who wanted paramedics to treat his dog's injured leg and a man who was reporting that a hedgehog had been run over.

On New Year's Eve a drunk man called for help to get up the steps to his house.

Paramedics say that a large percentage of late-night 999 calls on Friday and Saturdays are made by those too drunk to get a taxi.

Ambulance manager Alan Weir said his crews often spent hours phoning friends and parents of drunken people who have no injury or condition they can treat.

He added: "We don't do rides home. As a last resort we take people to A&E, but there's no cure for being drunk.

The paramedic service said it was hoping people would listen to its pleas for help,



Oxfordshire ambulance area manager Alan Weir at the Churchill Hospital

rather than resorting to billing or fining time-wasters.

Mr Weir added: "I have attended an incident where someone living 600 yards away from the Horton Hospital in Banbury had got the fluffy bit of a cottonbud stuck in his ear."

Despite the fact that each unnecessary call costs the taxpayer £257, spokesman Kat Byles said: "SCAS does not bill time-wasters. This is not the NHS ethos.

"However, should people abuse the service repeatedly, the Act of the Obstruction of Emergency Workers Bill can be used when people prevent the work of the emergency services on purpose."

Mr Weir said: "In a non-emergency situation, people can get advice from the GP out-of-hours service in Oxfordshire by calling 0845 345 8995 or by calling NHS Direct on 0845 4647.

Gang is jailed over cable theft that cut off 800 phones

MORE than 800 phonelines were cut after a gang of thieves stole copper cabling.

About 200 metres of cable was stolen in Twyford Road, Adderbury, causing disruption to homes and businesses. The wiring, which belonged to BT, downed hundreds of phonelines and caused the chip-and-pin card machines at a nearby Tesco to stop working.



Ben Birch

Four men were jailed at Oxford Crown Court on Friday after each



Aby Davies

admitted one count of theft. The copper was taken



Andrew Tyrell

between April 1 and 4 last year. Ben Birch, 23, of

Delapre Drive, Banbury, was jailed for 30 months.

Aby Davies, 37, of The Beeches Caravan Park, Chipping Norton, also got 30 months, as did 51-year-old Andrew Tyrell, of Evenlode, Banbury.

Mark Holland, 49, from Leamington Spa, is currently serving a 10-year sentence for other offences and was jailed for 38 months.

Debate over classrooms

■ A SPECIAL school should be given permission to keep a portable classroom building on its field for five years despite objections, a council report has said.

Frank Wise School in Hornbeam Close, Banbury, got permission to put the three-classroom building on its field in 2008 so it could take on pupils aged over 16.

But it has not got funding for a permanent extension and an Oxfordshire County Council report says while "not ideal" the temporary building is still needed.

Three neighbours objected.

Members of the council's planning and regulation committee will consider the plan on Monday at County Hall, Oxford, at 2pm. The public can attend.

GBH: police plea for help

■ A MAN had his face fractured in several places when he was attacked in the Musketeer Pub in Ruscombe Avenue, Drayton, on Friday evening.

The 44-year-old victim has now been released from the Horton General Hospital where he was treated.

A 51-year-old man was arrested on suspicion of causing grievous bodily harm and has now been released on bail until February 22, pending further inquiries.

Anyone with any information should call DC O'Leary on 101, or the Crimestoppers charity on 0800 555 111.

Teen admits park assault

■ A TEENAGER has admitted attacking a 14-year-old boy in Spiceball Park, Banbury, on October 1.

Dean Reading, 18, appeared at Oxford Crown Court on Friday and admitted one count of causing actual bodily harm.

Reading, of Abbey Road, Banbury, was bailed to be sentenced on February 10.

Hattersley's invitation

■ FORMER Labour deputy leader Roy Hattersley is to speak at Adderbury.

All are welcome at the Friday, January 20, event at the Adderbury Institute in The Green at 7.30pm.

Tickets are £10 from Anne Davis on 01295 810813.

Cancer group's first meeting

■ MARIE Curie Cancer Care wants to launch a new fundraising group in Banbury. Its first meeting will be held at Homeserve, at Cherwell Business Village, Southam Road, from 6pm to 8pm on Tuesday. For details email Shiralyn.Hunt@mariecurie.org.uk or call 01869 246655.



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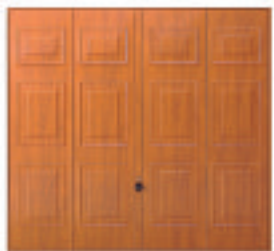


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MEMORIES TO COME Honest, sincere, open minded Banbury female, 31, enjoys romantic walks by the sea, meals, cooking, singing & karaoke, poetry and writing short stories, wlm a nice man to share interest together. Box 114566

HOPEFULLY YOURS Voluptuous female, 31, short hair, seeking a nice, good looking, fun guy, 24-57 for laughter and romance. Swindon. Box 104678 £

HAPPY GO LUCKY 38yr old lady, 5ft1, slim 14. I have 2 sons and would like to meet a happy, laid back guy who likes kids. Devizes. Box 467878 £

LOVE TO TALK Dark-eyed Wilts girl, 42, 5'2", enjoys nights out, movies and more, searching for an independent gent, to cosy times and conversation. Box 113059 £

STARTING FRESH Separated, caring Witney woman, 43, honest, GSOH, trustworthy, enjoys family life, swimming, music, theatre, cinema and walks, seeking a similar man, kind and sincere, for dates & laughter. Box 116588 £

FOR STARTERS... Loving, caring Oxford mum, 43, genuine, active, attractive, enjoys theatre, cinema, walks and nights in, seeking a similar family man, honest, funny and kind for sharing good times with. Box 114046 £

SOUND GOOD? Fun, curvy female, 42, brunette, green eyes, looking for a genuine, loving guy. I am caring person with gosh. Likes dining in and out animals. Box 852093 £

LIFE IS TO SHARE Single, genuine Oxfordshire lady, 45, GSOH, slim/med build, N/5, 5'5", enjoys days out, music, films and walking, seeking a special man, kind, loving and fun, for a long term relationship. Box 115621 £

KEEP UP WITH ME Understanding, easygoing Oxford woman, 46, lively, slim, 5'6", enjoys keeping fit, sport and socialising, seeking a similar man, open-minded, funny and caring, for friendship and more. Box 114360 £

SMOOTH MOVE Slim, blue-eyed Trowbridge female, 47, 5'2", GSOH, easy to get on with, enjoys nights out, walks and more, searching for an honest, active, interesting man. Box 109958 £

NEW DIRECTION Swindon girl, 48, 5'5", med build, blonde, enjoys travel, skiing, town life and socialising, searching for an equally interesting man. Box 108306 £

SHARING THE GOOD TIMES Cheerful female, 48, blonde, hazel eyes, medium build, live & work in Swindon, enjoys travelling, dining in & out, wlm spontaneous guy, for good times. Box 101568

LOTS OF FUN 38yr old lady, 5'5", cuddly, shy, quiet and demure, with a GSOH, looking for an honest man. Box 113078 £

MORE THAN WORDS Blonde, brown-eyed Swindon girl, 48, 5'5", cuddly, shy, quiet and demure, with a GSOH, looking for an honest man. Box 110968

GRIN AND SHARE IT! Independent Swindon lady, 49, seeks quiet laid back gent, for meals, cinema and theatre trips, no smokers only but must be equally young at heart. Box 117966 £

THIS & MORE Loving, caring and voluptuous Swindon lady, youthful 51, cheerful and hard-working, looking for my knight in shining armour, to restore my faith in men, and share friendship and outings. Box 115951 £

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I'LL TREAT YOU RIGHT Separated female, 53, gosh, likes going out, socialising, music, seeks friendly male, 38-48 for good times and more. Swindon. Box 104377 £

THAT SPECIAL PERSON Honest, bubbly female, 54, kind, loving, seeks tall male, for romance, companionship & lots more. Bicester. Box 110670 £

TIME TO START AFRESH Black, caring, African Epsom lady, 5'2", likes countryside, gardening, cooking and holidays, 50-70 for a long term relationship. Box 117888 £

COUNTRY WALK? Easy going lady, 56, 5'7", N/5, slim, enjoys walking in the countryside and country pubs. Looking for a man to enjoy a takeaway and DVD together. Swindon. Box 100251 £

JUST THE TWO OF US Separated, slim, smart, attractive Marlborough lady, mid-50s, young at heart, likes meals out, dogs, seeking a friend/soulmate to go ahead with me in life. Box 463551 £

LOOKING TO START AGAIN Non smoking petite lady, 55, seeking non-smoking man who's not overweight, and likes pubs, restaurants and quiet drives. Wantage. Box 465651 £

COUNTRY LADY Sporty lady, 58, widowed with grown up family. Enjoys walking her 2 dogs and playing bowls for a local team. Seeks similar gent for friendship and romance. Box 100171 £

NICE COMPANY Attractive female, 59, 5'6", size 12, no ties, N/5, enjoys socialising, travelling, seeking smart guy with no ties, to enjoy life with. Bicester. Box 100589

A TRUE FRIEND Separated, easygoing female, 59, likes cooking, evenings in/out, seeks friendly male, to enjoy life with. Witney. Box 100451

LOVE IS FOR SHARING Easygoing, sincere Trowbridge lady, 59, med build, 5'6", GSOH, N/5, enjoys good social life, darts, music, walking & reading, searching for that special guy, N/5 and caring for dates & more. Box 116161 £

WILTSHIRE LOVE Young 57 from Wiltshire, divorced brunette, n/5, works part time, play darts, love gardening, reading, walking, looking for a gent 49-58, to share life with. Box 454148

GENUINE AND CARING Oxfordshire widow, 50s, 5'6", slender build, sociable, caring and well-travelled, searching for a genuine, professional guy, non-smoker, for friendship, maybe lasting love. Box 466487

OUTGOING & ENTHUSIASTIC? Oxfordshire widow, 58, slender, 5ft6, dark hair, sociable and caring, well travelled, attractive, seeking guy who's caring, professional and considerate. Box 467516

ENJOY LIFE Retired, attractive, slim Oxfordshire lady, 60, searching for a gent, 55-60, to share happy times, friendship and maybe more. Box 113207 £

FUN TO BE WITH Attractive lady, 52, 5'8", very social and enjoys nights out and in, weekends away looking for a man with a gosh who is fun. Box 458867

STRICTLY BALLROOM Dance-loving lady, 61, 5'6", searching for a man, 5'10"+, N/5, who can jive, for friendship and ballroom dancing. Box 111203

SOCIABLE SORT I'm looking for a sociable man with an active lifestyle for a LTR. I'm 59, tall and blonde, I like walks, cars and gardening. Swindon Box 452750

SOMETHING MEANINGFUL Outgoing, happy Witney female, 62, tall and slim, many interest such as reading, the countryside, music and dancing, would like to meet a friendly chap for long term relationship. Box 116615

CHATS OVER A PINT? Country woman looking to meet a loving, dark haired, slim man. I'm 63yrs old, 5'7", slim and fit, love being outside, walking and gardening. Marlborough/Wiltshire Box 112241 £

POSSIBLE RELATIONSHIP Part-time language teacher from Kidlington, 63, widow, likes walking, gardening, places of interest, dancing, seeking a chatty man for conversation and to laugh together. Box 115447 £

EACH DAY IS A NEW ONE Widow lady, 64, brown hair, blue/grey eyes, likes walking, reading, watching films, family life, gardening, seeks nice gent, for ltr. Witney Box 105525

THE BETTER THINGS IN LIFE Divorced Swindon female, 64, 5'5", works part-time, likes walking, travelling and cooking, would like to meet a nice sociable gent, with a good lifestyle, to enjoy life with. Box 114628 £

SO HAPPY TOGETHER Loving, sincere and attractive lady, 65, cuddly, would like to meet a gent who likes country walks, meals out, social drinks and places of interest for companionship. Box 114914 £

NEW IN TOWN Easygoing, slim woman, 65, 5'6", blonde, likes jazz, live shows, reading and walks, seeks down-2-earth male, for genuine friendship and more. Box 100721

ONE PIECE MISSING Young, attractive 65yr old Witney lady, non smoker, likes travelling, cooking, playing bowls, seeking a tall gentleman up to 66, for a long term relationship. Box 113881

LEAD THE WAY A modern N/5 Kidlington lady, 68, 5'7", slim build, likes gardening, reading, cooking, cinema and travel, looking for an interesting gentleman to share days out & eating out. Box 114769 £

DOWN TO EARTH Happy-go-lucky female, young 67, slim/medium build, love walking, cooking, gardening, kisses and cuddles, looking for a non-smoking, clean-shaven man, 59-65, for a relationship. Swindon Box 454288 £

GREAT COMPANIONS Widow lady, 72, likes animals, music, theatre, wlm easygoing gent, 60-70 for companionship maybe more. Box 104917 £

ARE YOU THE LUCKY ONE?! Happy go lucky, solvent Banbury lady, 73, still working, likes travel, going out and about, would like to meet a trustworthy chap to enjoy life together. Box 115637

MY SIMPLE WISH Sincere female, 77, from Faringdon, likes gardening, walking, cinema, holidays, cooking, wlm a decent gent, for happy times. Box 109439 £



Men seeking women

BE YOURSELF Affectionate, honest, slightly disabled Oxford male, 35, wide circle of friends, can be a bit shy at times, loves history, watching sci fi, looking for a strong minded woman. Box 115975

WE COULD BE GOOD TOGETHER Down to earth male, 36, enjoys cycling, walking, travelling, seeks laid back female, for good times and more. Swindon. Box 100773 £

TIME TO SHARE Lively Oxford male, 38, 5'10", med build, enjoys motorbikes, clubs, cinema, meals and more, searching for a loving woman, to share friendship and more. Box 117999 £

COUPLE UP WITH ME Tall & athletic guy, 39, likes eating out, socialising with friends, seeks outgoing female, 28-45 for friendship & romance. Oxford Box 104825

PLENTY OF TLC Loving man, 39, 5'7", usual interests, from Didcot, looking for love and romance. Box 111253 £

PERFECT HARMONY Fun loving, easygoing, tactile Witney biker, 40, 6', stinky build, shaven head and goatee, seeks fun loving, cheeky lady to share life with. Box 108035

BACK WONDERFUL FEELING Laid back, sporty Woodstock male, 41, likes family life, nights in & out, having a laugh, seeks warm-hearted easygoing female, for good company Box 114209 £

MOVE FORWARD TOGETHER Divorced, young to heart male, 55, own house in Oxford, likes cinema, theatre, clubs, seeks caring female, for happy times and more. Box 107632

PART OF YOUR WORLD Genuine male, 45, single dad, likes week-ends away, family life, socialising, looking for a outgoing female, for fun, friendship and more. Newbury. Box 103015

LIFE IS MADE FOR TWO Happy, active Abingdon man, 45, GSOH, med build, positive, enjoys walking, swimming and cinema, would like to meet a similar lady, 50-75, fit and positive, for friendship and maybe more. Box 114348 £

IT'LL BE FUN Divorced Oxford male, 45, 5'5", short hair, green eyes, works full time, enjoys country walks, playing pool, going to the pub, seeking a similar active woman, to enjoy good times together. Box 116301 £

HOPE FOR US Youthful, blue-eyed male, 46, enjoys the gym and good times, searching for a nice, honest woman. Oxford. Box 100657 £

WE CAN BE HAPPY Fun male, 44, likes meals out, keeping fit, week-ends away, 5ft9in, seeking friendship maybe more with someone special. Banbury. Box 854670 £

IT'S NOT UNUSUAL Friendly Witney male, 47, 6', blue eyes, enjoys sports, music, cosy nights in, going out and having a laugh, would like to meet a female friend, for good company and laughter. Box 115039 £

TAKE A TRIP WITH ME Open minded Oxford guy, 49, likes all kinds of music, reading, visiting galleries, going to the cinema, eating out, walking and good conversation, wlm a female to share good times with. Box 115321 £

LOVE TO HAVE A LAUGH Friendly, warm hearted Abingdon male, 49, good sense of humour, would like to meet a caring matured guy, to enjoy good times together, for a long term relationship. Box 115894 £

GIVE LOVE A TRY Hardworking male, 49, 5'7", brown hair, own flat, likes socialising, cooking, nights in, seeks nice, young lady for friendship leading to more. Oxford Box 100302 £

TIME FOR A CHANGE Easygoing, active Kidlington male, 50, likes meals out, cinema, country walks and all the things couples do together, looking for that special female, to spend some quality time with. Box 114479 £

LOTS OF AFFECTION Divorced, caring, trustworthy male, 51, loves the country life, wlm sincere DIY, motor sports, publ sincere woman, to settle down with. Wallingford. Box 102120 £

MORE IN TIME Friendly male, 51, 5'5", likes loves, works with horses, seeking a loving female, 40-60 to settle down with. Box 104741 £

NOT TO BE MISSED Spontaneous, caring, hard working Oxford guy, 53, likes music, cooking, live bands, good wines, F1 racing, would like to meet a simple woman to share life with. Box 115773 £

IN IT FOR THE LONG RUN Genuine bloke, 54, from Didcot, happy go lucky person, looking for a young at heart lady to enjoy life with. Box 111665 £

LOVE THE COMPANY Down to earth male, 55, 5'10", gosh, many interest, seeks female, 35-60 any race, for fun, laughter and more. Banbury. Box 104545

A FUTURE FILLED WITH LAUGHTER Divorced, young to heart male, 55, own house in Oxford, likes cinema, theatre, clubs, seeks caring female, for happy times and more. Box 107632

THE HONEST KIND Easygoing male, 56, from Oxford, likes cinema, sports, nights in, seeks female for friendship leading to more. Box 110649

SPECIAL EVENINGS Upbeat Wantage male, 57, likes sports, horse racing and meeting people, looking for a woman with a good sense of humour, 40-50, for friendship hopefully leading to more. Box 116553 £

A FRESH START Country loving man, 57, 6ft tall, blue eyes, average build. I'd love to meet a nice lady to go out with and have fun again. Abingdon. Box 463069 £

SHARING GOOD TIMES Upbeat Burford widower, 57, own cars, out, countryside walks, driving, looking for a similar woman for companionship. Box 117916 £

PASSION FLOWER Young looking 58yr old, 5'9", dark hair, wears glasses, enjoys cinema, bowling, days out, socialising, seeks loving, loyal female, for LTR. Wallingford. Box 101122 £

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STARTING TOGETHER Country loving Wallingford widower, 59, 6', grown up children, likes sports, theatre, would like to meet an easygoing sociable lady, 36, for company and more. Box 114484 £

CONFIDENTLY YOURS Widowed chap, 59, 5'10", own house/business, Wiltshire based, enjoys music, country sports, walks, fishing, gardening, seeks outgoing female, to enjoy life again. Box 107964

BETTER WITH COMPANY Tactile male, 60, 5'7", wears glasses, likes days out, country walks, evenings in, looking for a young lady, 50-60 to enjoy these good times together. Northampton. Box 104324 £

START SOMETHING SPECIAL Active male, 60, 5'7", blue eyes, gosh, likes cinema, theatre, days out, country pubs, meals out, seeks similar female, 54-59 for company & more. Northampton. Box 104253 £

STABLE RELATIONSHIP SOUGHT Easygoing, non-smoking, divorced Abingdon man, 61, 5'10", average build, would to meet a nice lady, to share good times together. Box 114301 £

GETTING TO KNOW YOU Genuine male, 50s, seeks chatty female friend to share days out, meals out & cinema. Abingdon. Box 823507 £

SAIL AWAY WITH ME Young 60, I'm a caring guy, 5ft9, full head of hair! I live in Didcot and enjoy the sea, reading, books. WLTM similar lady. Box 468137 £

READY TO MOVE ON Young, caring Didcot guy, 62, 5'9", enjoys the sea, reading and boating, would like to meet a similar lady for companionship. Box 117043 £

THAT CERTAIN SOMEONE Happy go lucky Oxford male, 62, would love to meet a smart elegant lady who is outgoing and sincere, to settle down into a lasting relationship. Box 115584 £

MORE IN TIME Self-employed Witney male, 63, loves cinema, theatre, eating out and more, searching for a serious-minded lady, for a loving and supportive relationship. Box 109413 £

LOOKING FOR LTR Youthful, solvent, active retired businessman, 65, 5'9", 11st, own home and car, loves music, places of interest and experiencing the new, seeking a loving, feminine woman, to share a warmth. Box 109799

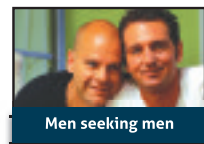
KINDRED SPIRITS Presentable, educated chap, 65, enjoys the arts, history, places of interest, exploring towns/countryside on foot, wlm attractive, vivacious lady. Oxford. Box 101058 £

OUR FUTURE'S BRIGHT Active Swindon female, 34, long dark-hair, brown-eyes, likes walking, cycling, pubs and clubs, would like to meet a similar female for friendship and more. Box 117653

HOPE THIS WORKS Cuddly Swindon lady, 46, easygoing and fun to be with, looking for friendship leading to more with a nice, friendly, bubbly woman. Box 851817 £

SOUND LIKE US? Blue-eyed Wilts female, 51, size 22, seeking for a fun and adventurous woman, for friendship, fun and good times. Box 116426 £

THE BEST OF FRIENDS? Friendly, chatty Oxford female, 56, likes chats, coffee, lunch and anything else, looking for males and female for friendship. Box 116662



Men seeking men

RESCUE ME Friendly Oxford guy, 45, 6ft, 13st, loves the outdoors, cycling, fishing, keeps fit, seeks like-minded, slimish bloke, for good times. Box 101150

ALL THIS AND MORE Upbeat Oxford male, 54, enjoys pubs, walking, meeting new friends, would like to meet a nice friendly guy 25-45, who enjoys good company and good times. Box 115505 £

SHOW ME THE WAY Fit and active male, 53, non scene, looking for a nice quiet gay partner, 60-80, fit and healthy, gosh, to enjoy life with. Oxford Box 865303

LET'S EXCHANGE Male seeking male, I'm 65yrs old, medium build, 5ft9, easy going and affectionate. Looking for someone similar, Abingdon area. Box 453567 £

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CakeSport banburycake.co.uk/sport

Banbury record victory in Evo-Stik Southern League Premier Division

Walker is spot on as United win 1-0

GLENN Walker kept his head from the penalty spot as Banbury United got back to winning ways in the Premier Division with a narrow victory in the West Country.

Banbury went close to breaking the deadlock within the opening 20 seconds when Ricky Johnson was foiled by a last-ditch tackle from home defender Tom Evans.

They then had to withstand some severe home pressure, but Banbury, with skipper Liam Dolman and Ben Thackeray outstanding, coped well.

And they took the lead in the 26th minute when Dean Flockton handled and Walker confidently stroked the ball home from the penalty spot.

Frome Town	0
Banbury United	1
(Walker pen 26)	

Banbury went close to doubling their advantage on 34 minutes when Josh Cole headed a Joe Coleman cross into the path of Josh Blake, but he failed to make a clean connection and keeper Darren Chitty cleared.

The second half was a non-event, with defences dominant. Although Frome turned up the heat in the latter stages, Banbury held on.

Banbury Utd: Kemp, Coleman, Polk (Kinch 46), Dolman, Thackeray, Richardson, Williams, Cole, Johnson, Blake (Edmond 75), Walker. Subs not used: Chilton, Lamb.

Attendance: 257.



Penalty-taker Glenn Walker in action for Banbury United

Cash shortage delays Mini's full rally return

A LONG-AWAITED return to full competitive rally racing for Oxford's historic Mini brand will not happen this year because of a funding shortfall.

Bosses at the Mini WRC team have been unable to raise enough sponsorship cash to compete in the 13 rounds of the World Rally Championship.

It would have marked the first time the team had taken part in all events in a bid to win the championship since 1968.

Yet the famed motor will take part in the January 17 to 22 Monte Carlo rally, where it famously came first in 1964, 1965 and 1967.

Ben Sayer, spokesman for Banbury's Prodrive, which is managing the team, said drivers would compete in most rounds but did not know how many.

He said: "We are going to do as many events as we can given the resources and funding we have."

Convers Sports Initiatives, the parent company of promoter North One, went into receivership, leaving a question mark over TV deals, vital to securing sponsors.

The firm missed the December 19 deadline to enter the championship but managed to still enter at a later date.

International governing body the Federation Internationale de L'Automobile (FIA) was not available for comment. BMW declined to comment.

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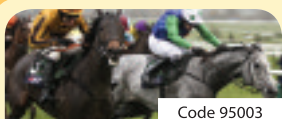
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Snow White dwarfed by cast



DRAMA QUEEN: Snow White Jessica Braviner, left, and evil Queen Penny Tasker

THINK Snow White with a difference and you'll be close. But 27 dwarfs? Throw playwright, director and Hollywood actor Nasser Memarzia into the mix and you'll realise who is responsible for the mischief being made in Cherwell Theatre Company's big new festive show at Banbury's Mill.

It doesn't take long to realise all is not as it seems in Banbury this month. 27 dwarfs aside, there is also the 'misunderstood' evil queen to consider, as well as the 'vain' and 'self-absorbed' Snow White vying for our attention.

First up is the evil Queen who sniffs that she's not evil at all, just misunderstood, before cracking into a massive grin and laughing out loud. Penny Tasker, a former Cherwell College drama graduate is back as the villain in Snow White, and with 27 dwarfs to keep under control, she's got a lot to sink her teeth into.

"Well so many of the youth theatre wanted to join in, and were so enthusiastic, that we kept writing new parts – 27 in fact. But they are all very professional and it's all running very smoothly. And besides, seven dwarfs is never enough," Penny laughs.

The 27 dwarfs range in age from 14-18, and therefore don't have the obligatory long grey beards. However, what they lack in facial hair they make up in other ways,

By Katherine MacAlister

according to Penny. "They bring real zing and vibrancy, energy and fun to the performance," she says. "It's going to be spectacular when it opens tomorrow," she promises, "because it's a really funny script, packed full of jokes and one-liners."

Penny jumped at the chance to appear in one of Nasser's productions, having studied under the famous actor at Cherwell.

"I graduated and went straight to RADA and I've been working for Cunard for the past year circumnavigating the globe, so it was nice to have a few months off, but even better to have something like this to come back to," the 27-year-old explains.

"And as I'm from North Newington, just up the road, all my relatives will be coming to see me. No pressure then!"

As for the Queen herself, Penny says: "I really feel for her and I do think she's misunderstood. I'm 27 now and spend my life auditioning next to thinner, younger models, so I know just how she feels.

"And Snow White is so vain and obsessed with how beautiful she is that she deserves to eat the poisoned apple," Penny adds, before practising one of her theatrically evil laughs, whisking her cape around her and striding off into the distance.

Jessica Braviner has the daunting task of providing the foil to Penny's

evil Queen. So scrap the Disney all-singing and dancing version that we all know and love, because Snow White is not as angelic as she would seem.

"No, she's not very typical. She's really up herself and has an innocence and vanity that I've really been able to play with which brings a new comic influence to the performance," Jessica says.

After a busy year, Jessica was delighted to land the part in the Mill's big New Year production. Hailing from Sibford Gower, Jessica grew up in a theatrical family, and performed from a young age.

"I've always been involved in the performing arts so it never really entered my mind to do anything else," she says. "But it's important not to take on a part with a fixed idea in your mind of how to play them because there are so many other factors to take into consideration – the cast – and so much can change."

So is there a happy ending?

"Of course," she grins. "It all works out for her in the end, even though she doesn't do herself any favours.

"And yes, I get to wear two dresses, my poor dress and my pretty dress. So I can't wait."

■ *Snow White and the (Twenty) Seven Dwarfs*, Banbury's panto by Cherwell Theatre Company opens at The Mill Theatre, Spiceball Park, Banbury, tomorrow and runs until January 22. Call the box office on 01295 279002.

STARS with Claire Petulengro

Service provided by IMS Leeds LS1 8LB. Calls cost 61p per minute at all times

ARIES Mar 21-Apr 19
Love and romance are particularly well starred this week and you start to realise that you can afford to aim high and ask for what you want. A lack of confidence last month really took its toll on your personal life but you've learnt a lot from what you experienced which is also why you'll appreciate what Venus has in store for your future. Ring me now for a glimpse of what's to come.

0906 585 4360

TAURUS Apr 20-May 20
Forced changes turn out to be a blessing in disguise. Don't tell friends and family too much about what you're planning yet, or they could put you off with their views and opinions. You and I know you're on the right track and it's only time which will prove to those watching that you are. Events on Friday are your first step towards showing people what you're made of.

0906 585 4361

GEMINI May 21-Jun 20
This is a really good time to make peace with close ones you haven't been seeing eye to eye with. Come on Gemini, be the first one to show that you're the bigger person. It's sure to earn you respect and praise if you do. Tests and exams should also go well at this time. Watch out for younger faces taking advantage of your good nature this weekend. Ring me now to hear what your future holds.

0906 585 4362

CANCER Jun 21-Jul 22
There's a certain amount of tension in your chart which is making it hard for you to concentrate as you should. It's also clear from your stars that you're tired Cancer and this would be a good week to think of which responsibilities you can offload so that you can recharge those batteries. News of exciting travel looms, so check your passport's in date. Ring me now for more news and predictions.

0906 585 4363

LEO Jul 23-Aug 22
Try not to get involved in the gossip and little-tattle which is circulating at the moment. You would be far better to keep yourself to yourself for now, or you could end up being blamed as the scapegoat. New flirtations make for a more interesting week than normal but just make sure that you're not jumping in at the deep end. Seduction is just much more fun at a slower pace. Ring now for insight.

0906 585 4364

VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22
There don't seem to be enough hours in the day lately for you Virgo and I'm sure you must feel as if you've had the weight of the world on your shoulders. Fear not though, for from this week onwards you start to see the light at the end of the tunnel and news you get midweek is sure to be proof enough that you never have to go back to the way things were. Ring now so I can tell you more.

0906 585 4365

LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22
A more artistic influence on your chart should see you willing to try your hand at new things. Life and love all start to become more interesting for you in fact my friend. Venus brings a new admirer but check how free they are before you embark on what could turn out to be somewhat of a wild goose chase. Call me star line now to hear how Neptune favours putting in overtime this month.

0906 585 4366

SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21
Your ruling planet Mars is pushing you to believe the worst in everyone and you need to be careful that you don't accuse close ones of doing things which they may not be guilty of. New faces lead you astray and you would be wise to set yourself some standards before you embark on what could be a path of self destruction this month. Ring me now to hear why it's worth being focused right now.

0906 585 4367

SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21
This is a really testing time as far as the relationships in your life are concerned. If you find yourself arguing with loved ones then make sure that your confrontations are of a constructive nature or you could force a wedge between you which will not be easy to remove. Your element of fire helps you to excel in the workplace on Thursday and Friday. Call now and I'll tell you a secret.

0906 585 4368

CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19
You're far easier to influence than usual this week and you need to be careful who you socialise with as you don't want to be led astray. Be prepared to have to pay out more on the home or for transport, but don't cut corners Capricorn. Get things done properly or it will come back on you and end up costing you double. Call me now to hear why romance may require a white lie.

0906 585 4369

AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18
Your dreams finally stand a chance of becoming a reality. Your confidence is given a boost by the things that people say to you and the actions that a close one makes on your behalf. News of a birth or pregnancy may shock or surprise you, but will end up being a happy addition to your circle. Call me now so that I can tell you why this is going to be a month to remember.

0906 585 4370

PISCES Feb 19-Mar 20
Your instincts are sharp and you should find it easy to tell a good offer from bad. Paperwork and legal links can all help make your life a more financially rewarding one, but you have to stick to whole truths rather than half truths or you could end up tarnishing your reputation. Don't believe gossip. Certain signs are amazing for the sake of it. Give me a call now so that I can tell you an intriguing romantic prediction.

0906 585 4371

Music gigs to suit all tastes

■ THEY are among the UK's finest folk/bluegrass bands, getting venues jumping with a riotous fusion of banjo, mandolin, fiddle and harmony vocals. They're called Southern Tenant Folk Union, and later this month they are heading to Banbury's Mill Arts Centre. Pull on your checked shirt, dungarees and dancin' shoes, for a moonshine-soaked night of sawdust-kicking energy. The gig, on January 27, follows the release of the band's fourth album *Pencatland*. Folk will sound the same again. Tickets cost £10 (£8 concessions)

■ If you can't see the real thing, the next best thing is a tribute band...indeed, some have been known to sound better than the originals. And for lovers of tribute acts, Stratford's Cox's Yard is the place to head this weekend. Tomorrow, the Secret Police will be turning on the red light, with a night of all your favourite tunes by Sting and the band (doors 8.30pm, tickets are £6). They are followed, on Saturday, by Top Rex – the



LIVE: Echo and the Bunnymen

country's biggest devotees of big-haired glam-rock heroes T-Tex. Expect everything from *Metal Guru* and *Jeepster* to *Ride a White Swan* and *Get it On*. Don't forget your flares. Doors 8pm, tickets £8. Get your tickets from ticketweb.co.uk

■ A true legend comes to the Assembly, Leamington Spa, on Tuesday, in the shape of indie-rock survivors Echo and the Bunnymen. Shock-haired,

Rayban-clad frontman Ian McCulloch is a true musical legend, who has remained an icon since the '80s. And while imitators have burned out and fallen by the wayside, they continue to turn out atmospheric and epic rock. Don't miss a chance to see one of the best bands this country has ever produced perform two classic albums – *Crocodiles* and *Heaven Up Here*. Doors open at 7pm. Tickets cost £22.50 plus booking fee from seetickets.com

■ For something more left-field, there is a feast of electronic experimentalism on offer at MK Gallery, today. Electro-acoustic composer Ryo Ikeshiro presents a show of unpredictable sound alongside artist and visual performer Paul Prudence, at the Milton Keynes arts venue. It promises to be a groundbreaking collaboration, and something to remember – a million miles away from the wave of disposable pop offered up by so many mainstream artists. Doors open at 6.45pm, first performance is at 7.15pm.

New Year, New You!



So, you have set yourself the New Year's Resolution to get fit in 2012. Now all you need to do is find the right gym that offers fun fitness classes and a warm and friendly team to help you achieve your goal.

Akasha Gym on Thorpe Way Industrial Estate in Banbury offers just this. Run by husband and wife team Debbie and Daimon Peachey, they offer a wealth of experience. Debbie has been in the fitness industry for over 10 years teaching yoga and fitness classes. Some of you may remember her from other local leisure centres as a personal trainer. Daimon is a black belt in kickboxing and has been bodybuilding for over 20 years. Together they offer a wide range of expertise to suit a multitude of client needs.

SPACE TO BE YOURSELF

One of the areas Debbie and Daimon work hard on is making their members feel comfortable. "When you walk through the door at Akasha you are not a sales target or another number" states Debbie. Their classes are not packed because they want you to have the freedom and space to move around the hall.

At Akasha you will not be left to your own devices. Staff are there to help you plan your workout and show you how each piece of equipment works. They will tell you how the equipment is working your muscle groups and how to make you stronger, leaner and in better shape for 2012. They don't offer this the first time you come through the door, this guidance is ongoing, so you feel motivated and confident everytime you visit.

If you feel more comfortable in fitness classes, Akasha keeps their fitness classes small, with an average of just 10 people



to enable quality instruction. The timetable is kept fresh and classes are up to date with modern styles and themes. One of their latest classes proving to be very successful is the kettlebell training session. Kettlebell training help you lose inches fast without spending hours in the gym.

The induction is key at Akasha. Each member receives a gym program to suit their requirements, but even better, it is changed every 4-6 weeks so you won't get the chance to be bored. Diet and nutrition advice is also given if required.

"We love what we do. We want our members to succeed in their fitness goals and will support them every step of the way", say Debbie and Daimon.

To discover everything Akasha have to offer visit their website **www.akashagym.co.uk** or **call the team on 01295 257509**



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New Year, New You!

NEW KNEES FOR THE NEW YEAR?



Consultant orthopaedic surgeon James Owen established the Oxfordshire Knee Clinic at the BMI Foscote Hospital in Banbury to provide a premium knee service. He specialises in all aspects of knee surgery including sporting injuries, ligament reconstruction, and joint replacement surgery.

In patient rankings of BMI Healthcare hospitals the Foscote gains consistently high scores, and Mr. Owen says this is due to the friendly staff who have a wealth of experience enabling them to provide first class care and treatment.

Mr. Owen gained his first medical degree at Cambridge University and completed his higher orthopaedic training in Oxford. Within this six year programme he undertook a one year Sports Knee Fellowship in Brisbane, Australia.

Here he answers questions about his work and his interests away from the hospital.

As we get older should we be playing less sport to prevent knee injuries?

Exercising and playing sport is vital for health at all ages, but the beneficial effects increase as you get older. It is important however to choose a sport that is appropriate for your level of fitness and then to progressively build up the intensity to minimise the risks of injury.

Can people now have knee and hip replacements at a younger age?

Yes. The prostheses we use are very reliable and we are confidently offering surgery to much younger patients who have severe arthritis and dysfunction.

Does a knee or hip replacement signal the end of sporting activities?

Certainly not. The whole point of surgery is to keep you active and able to enjoy life. Patients can return to most sports including skiing, tennis, badminton, swimming, golf and use of the gym. I would not, however, advise patients to return to running or heavy impact sports.

How can we avoid wearing out our knees and hips in the first place?

There is a significant genetic component to degenerative joint disease and so for some people it is difficult to avoid. Certain activities do accelerate the process, for example a rugby playing career, and obviously some sports are more likely to result in knee injury than

others. It is important to remember though that we take small risks with everything in life, and we have to play the sports we are good at and enjoy.

Away from work, what do you do to relax?

Like many of my patients I enjoy sport. I cycle most days – having given up running because of a sore knee! I spend Sundays at Banbury rugby club; these days only on the sidelines cheering on my sons. I have four of them and they certainly keep me busy.

Any favourite places in the Banbury area?

The bridleways in the countryside around Banbury would be my first choice. Mountain biking along them, preferable on a nice sunny day, is my idea of great fun!



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THE CONSULTANTS' CHOICE



New Year, New You!



BANBURY SLIMMER SHEDS OVER FOUR-AND- A-HALF STONE

A year before her fortieth birthday, Sonia Coles, who is now 41 years of age, decided she did not want to be frumpy and fat at forty so she joined her local Rosemary Conley Diet and Fitness Club and shed 4st 8lb in just over a year to be fit and fab for her milestone birthday.

Sonia, who used to weigh 15st 12lb and wear a dress size 18-20, now weighs 11st 6lb and is a dress size 12-14. She put on weight following the birth of her two children and, after traumatic child-birth with her second son, Sonia suffered from post-natal depression and was on anti-depressants for eight years. "I would eat for the sake of eating and wasn't interested in looking after number one," says Sonia, who had low self esteem and no confidence.

Comfort eating and eating the children's leftovers took their toll on Sonia's weight and fitness levels



BEFORE



AFTER

and she struggled to keep up with her children when she was in the park with them. Feeling breathless when she went on walks with her friend only made her feel more shattered and embarrassed.

When a colleague from the primary school where Sonia works as a teaching assistant, who was losing weight with Rosemary Conley Diet and Fitness Clubs, suggested Sonia should join her, she even went to pick her up from home to make sure she turned up.

Whilst Sonia initially struggled with the exercise in class, in the first week she lost 5½ lb and since then she has never looked back. "The classes are a great social occasion. The instructor, Sharon, is so supportive and very inspirational and she has been there for me through thick and thin," says Sonia, who is now fitter and healthier than ever and has even taken up jogging, "something I never thought I'd do," adds Sonia.

You can benefit from a Rosemary Conley class too! The average class lasts for an hour and a half and is packed full of advice, motivation and healthy information. There are even certificates for the week's best slimmers!

But that is not where it stops – there is also an optional exercise to music session giving you the chance to burn fat and tone your body at a pace that you are comfortable with.

Often, when members first join a Rosemary Conley Club they think they won't enjoy exercising but, after a short while, they soon start to really love the exercises in class. However, if you decide not to join in, that's fine with them too.

For more information call Sharon Canning on 01869 240959 or visit www.rosemaryconley.com/franchisee/CANG



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6:30 - 8:00 pm (**Slim & Aerobics**)

Over Norton Village Hall

1 Quarhill Close, Over Norton,

Chipping Norton, OX7 5PS

6:00 - 7:30 pm (**Slim & Zumba®**)

TUESDAY

Hanwell Fields Community Centre

Rotary Way, Banbury, OX16 1ER

10:00 - 11:30 am (**Slim & Aerobatone**)

Brailes Village Hall

Castle Hill Lane, Upper Brailes,

Nr. Banbury, Banbury, OX15 5AS

5:00 - 6:30 pm (**Slim & Aerobics**)

WEDNESDAY

Hanwell Fields School

Rotary Way, Banbury, OX16 1SN

5:30 - 7:00 pm (**Slim & Aerobatone**)

7:00 - 8:30 pm (**Slim & Aerobatone**)

THURSDAY

Windmill Centre

Hempton Road,

Deddington, OX15 0QH

09:30 - 11:00 am (**Slim & Aerobatone**)

Bodicote Village Hall

White Post Road,

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5:30 - 7:00 pm (**Slim & Aerobics**)

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Call Sharon on 01869 240959

email: sharon.canning@rosemaryconley.com

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New Year, New You!

SPACE TO BE YOURSELF



FOR THE BODY YOU DESERVE

Each week Donna Hubbard, Founder of the Gymophobics chain of ladies Gyms and inventor of the acclaimed Resisted Tension exercise system, shares her secrets on diet, health & figure improvement with our readers.

In my previous columns I shared with you some of the things I ask my clients to do when they come to me for advice on losing weight. I suggested smaller portions, cutting out bread and drinking more water. Along with my very own exercise system called Resisted Tension, all of these things helped me to lose some four and a half stones in just over six months. What I did not do was go on a 'diet'. Like me, you have probably tried every diet going so you need me to give you another diet like you need a hole in the head!

My advice is not a diet. It is more like a series of simple steps designed to change the habits of a lifetime. If you can change the built in habits that have helped to make you fat, then you can not only get the figure you deserve, but more importantly, you will keep slim for the rest of your life. I know it can be done because I have done it. I lost the weight some 23 years ago and have kept it off for the past 23 years.

Compare that achievement with what happens to thousands of slimmers who lose weight with a famous chain of slimming clubs in the USA. The consumer magazine 'Which' wrote to a number of their successful slimmers, the slimmers who had actually achieved their

goal weight, and asked them one simple question. "What happened to your weight in the twelve months after you achieved your goal weight?"

Some 30,000 'successful' slimmers responded to the survey and the result was this. 93% of those slimmers had put back all of the weight that they had lost and were now heavier than when they started their diet.

Depressing isn't it? Now I don't want that to happen to you so there are two things we need to learn from that survey. The first is that in the long term 'Dieting doesn't work' and the second is that unless you can change your attitude towards food you will never achieve the figure you want.

DIET TIP

I am sure you have heard of the dieting phrase 'Breakfast like a King, Lunch like a prince, Dine like a pauper!', but to be honest I had never paid it much attention. Perhaps you are the same? It sounds too simple to be effective?

However, my perception changed when I met George and Margaret, a couple living in Stourbridge who told me that they had lost 3 stones between them in the past year without changing a thing. They ate the same food and did the same amount of exercise as the previous year so they could not understand why they had lost the weight.

"You must have changed something", I told them. "Weight does not come off by accident". They shook their heads. "Mind you" said George, "I did change my Job so that I could work closer to home". Discussing this further it turned out that George now lives close enough to go home for lunch so his wife does them both a cooked lunch and they now have a light tea in the evening. They eat exactly the same meals as before but have swapped what they eat for lunch and dinner. So by eating more

earlier in the day and a lot less later, the weight had dropped off without any change in their diet or activity levels at all.

What a simple change but one that many of my clients over the years have found very difficult to accomplish. The habit of sitting down for a cooked evening meal is a difficult one to break for many women. Difficult or not, it is something you should try. Let's face it, anything is better than following a diet surely?

EXERCISE 4

This exercise is for your outer thighs. It is designed to firm and tone the muscles we call your abductors. Lie on the floor. Lie on your left side with your left leg bent and your right leg extended. Flex your right foot then raise your right leg as far as possible then hold for the count of seven before lowering slowly to the count of five.

Repeat no more than 10 to 12 times then repeat with the opposite leg.

Next time we will look at an exercise which will improve the Bust.

Do email to tell me how you are getting along so that I can share your success with others. Contact me at: donna@gymophobics.co.uk

If you haven't exercised in a long time, if you are over forty or have an existing medical condition, always consult your Doctor before commencing any exercise or dietary regime.

Love Donna x

JASON JAMES

HAPPY 18TH BIRTHDAY

10th August 2011
Have a Great day!

Love From
Mum, Dad,
Sarah and Tom
XX



EMMA & CARL SMITH



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New Year, New You!



Many of us make the New Year's Resolution to change our work life. For many this means a change of career, finding a role that suits our life plans and increasing job satisfaction. If this is you, your first call needs to be to Cameo Consultancy.

Cameo is located in the heart of the countryside, on the Oxfordshire / Warwickshire border, only a short drive from the Banbury town centre. The private offices are based on an established business park and offer an out of town, confidential service.

Cameo Consultancy was founded by **experienced, qualified** and successful Consultants Hannah Nicholls FIRP Dip RP and Julie Allan AIRP, through their combined passion for **people and business**. The duo had a thirst for delivering the **ultimate recruitment experience** and an eagerness to focus upon a **fresh approach** to the modern day recruitment industry.

Candidates can expect a first class service, advice and guidance from the experienced team. Cameo offer an array of roles from PA/Secretarial to sales, administration, customer service, finance, IT and more! You can be sure you will be matched to roles that suit you, your experience and career

THE FRESH APPROACH TO RECRUITMENT

goals. The Cameo website offers a Candidate Lounge, where you can upload your CV, browse vacancies and find interview advice and tips.

Clients will be introduced to the very best available candidates. Cameo Consultancy offers the complete recruitment package, whether you are looking for a temp at short notice, or to fill a short fixed term contract or a specialist **permanent role**.

Cameo also offers their Clients a unique, "build your own" recruitment service called e-Cameo. This is a fantastic option for those looking to recruit at a flat-fee cost and have more control over the recruitment process. To find out more about e-Cameo, call the team on 01295 680699.



Cameo goes much further for their Clients and Candidates alike. They offer a personal approach, private interview suites at their offices, free parking, a consultative and quality service, knowledge of the local area and so much more!

So, whether you have made a New Year's resolution to find a new job/career or have been searching for the "right role" for some time; choose an agency with experience and passion. Choose Cameo.

Visit their website www.cameoconsultancy.co.uk and find out why they are the fresh approach to recruitment! Start your Cameo journey today!

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New Year, New You!

YOUR LIFE IN NUMBERS

"The numbers in your birth date could tell you if you will be lucky in love, details about your personality, the obstacles you will meet in life and your personal strengths and weaknesses" says Numerologist Paulina Deutsch.

Numerology is the study of the symbolism of numbers. Whether you use numerology to examine your life, confirm your talents, take advantage of unexplored opportunities or simply figure out where to go next, numerology can help you understand yourself and loved ones better. Numerology presents the whole picture, revealing all the diverse parts of your personality and how they come together to create the person you are. The study of numbers can be traced back more than 10,000 years to Egypt and Babylonia, but it was Pythagoras, who developed many of the basic theorems that form the foundation of modern mathematics, who has been credited with formally developing numerology about 2600 years ago in ancient Greece.

However in the 21st century, the interest in Numerology is growing as more people are turning to Numerologists for guidance. Those that live in Banbury can now have their numbers read and discover more about the person they are and who they could be with the help of local Numerologist Paulina Deutsch. Paulina is passionate about bringing Numerology to as many people as possible and travels throughout the UK. She has appeared on national television, including This Morning.

Paulina studied with the Connaissance School of Numerology in the UK and has been practising for 10 years. "Over the years, I have conducted countless hundreds of readings both here in the UK and in the USA - anyone who has had this experience will attest to my passion and devotion to Numerology as a way to genuinely help people understand what is going on! I am very pragmatic and down to earth - you get it straight from the heart with me" say Paulina. To find out more and to see Numerology in action visit www.numberwoman5.wordpress.com or call Paulina on 07966 794412

SAVE MONEY ON PARKING IN 2012

With the recent increase in rail fares commuting to work just got a little more expensive. On top of these if you have to drive to the railway station you have car park charges to pay for as well as the rail fare; Well here is a way you can save a little money and help a local youth organization at the same time.

Banbury Sea Cadets a registered charity have just moved to new premises in Lower Cherwell Street and have space for up to 20 cars available to rent on a weekly basis. The income raised from the sale of these car parking spaces is used 100% to support the cadet's activities at the former Jewson's building at Bridge Wharf, Banbury.

Normal weekly charges at the sea cadet's



car park are £20pw, but in an exclusive offer to Banbury Cake readers this will be reduced to £15pw.

You don't have to be a rail commuter - if you work in town and drive in every day then why not take advantage of this money saving offer and book up in a secure car park with your own designated parking space.

Contact Jon Cox on 07725302188 or email unit464@hotmail.com for full details.



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New Year, New You!



LOOK AND FEEL YOUR BEST

Jo Plumley at Serenity in Sibford Gower has a range of beauty treatments that leave her clients feeling fresh and ready to face the New Year. Perhaps you are thinking of applying for a new job, or maybe you are looking for love – well, experience shows us that the more confident you are, the more successful you will be. Confidence comes from both what's on the inside and how you feel about yourself on the outside. You may be surprised at the difference a beauty treatment can make to the way you feel.

Serenity have every treatment you could need to make you feel and look your best in 2012. Jo is a highly qualified professional beauty and holistic therapist with more than 10 years experience.

Her salon at Sibford Gower is set in a delightful rural location and everything they have at Gautherns Barn is designed for your comfort and relaxation. The salon boasts a warm and cosy therapy room, a separate massage room and for those wanting to unwind after all the Christmas and New Year madness, the Pilates and exercise studio are sure to bring a calm mind.

Serenity boasts a peaceful setting with free easy parking, so its well worth the trip out of town.



In January and February Serenity are offering Shellac Manicures for just £12.50. Shellac is a polish hybrid that's applied like a polish but stays on like a gel does. After the polish is applied it will set under a UV lamp for a few minutes, then once your hand is removed from the lamp, there is zero dry time. Your polish is set for the full two weeks without the risk of dulling, smudging, or chipping.

If you are looking for makeup ideas or fancy a change to your usual styles or colour choices, why not go along for a Jane Iredale Mineral Make-up Make-over. Mineral make-up leaves a natural finish but provides long-lasting results.

These are just a few of the treatments available at Serenity. For more information, call the salon today on **01295 788463**.



What better way to give yourself a little pick me up, than a trip to your local beauty salon. Sometimes it is the small things that make a big difference. An eyebrow reshape, a luxury manicure or a spray tan are just some of the ways we try to make ourselves feel better.

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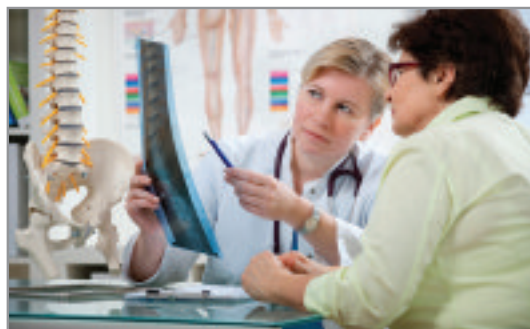
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New Year, New You!



Today, more and more of us are interested in a higher level of health called wellness. Beyond merely feeling better or preventing health problems, we want to fully enjoy life by being at our very best mentally, physically and chemically. True health could be described as when all the parts of the body are operating at 100% of their ability. This is only possible with an optimally functioning nervous system as this allows all the organs to function as they should and the food to be utilized as it was designed to be.

Although it is a little optimistic to think that the body will function continually at 100%, a continuing schedule of regular chiropractic checkups can help you detect, correct or maintain a functioning nervous system. For more information on how to improve your wellness see the accompanying advertisement for the Banbury Chiropractic Clinic on South Bar or call 01295 253434 to make an appointment to talk to one of their chiropractors.

The ideal spine?

The majority of back problems start after the spine has

HOW TO BE YOUR VERY BEST IN 2012!

been injured. Over the years, many patients have told the clinic that their first injuries were before they were 20 years old. Falls as varied as: off beds, bikes, horses or out of trees, to car accidents, football or sport in general. Many times x-rays of the affected areas show that most of the damage has been there long before the day that the patient came to the clinic. Some of these patients have had pain over the years but others didn't



so didn't seek help until they did.

When the 24 bones that protect the spinal cord lose their normal position, (straight from the front and curved from the side), or motion, delicate nerves can become stretched, trapped or irritated. This is usually when the person feels the pain. It may take some time for the pain to start, since before it does, the body will twist and change to some degree to compensate for the malfunctioning areas. Many of these changes are picked up when you have a postural examination at the Banbury Chiropractic Clinic or you can look at yourself in a mirror at home to see if your body is straight or not.

By keeping the spinal joints moving, chiropractic adjustments will many times help normalize spinal motion and help avoid the affected areas of tight muscles or locked joints from becoming more stiff and locked up.

An ageing spine is something that concerns many people. When it works properly and protects your delicate spinal cord, you will have good mobility, allowing you to do most things that you want to in life.

Prevention is better than cure. Once your spine is moving better, feeling stronger and you are standing straighter, future problems can be less severe by maintaining your good posture and flexibility with a regular exercise program, along with regular stretching and a manipulation program specific for you.

Do you suffer from back pain?



Banbury Chiropractic Clinic

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Spielberg's latest is a thoroughbred drama

WAR HORSE (12A, 146 mins)
War/Drama/Action. Jeremy Irvine, Emily Watson, Peter Mullan, David Thewlis, Tom Hiddleston, Benedict Cumberbatch, Celine Buckens, Niels Arestrup, Matt Milne, Toby Kebbell, David Kross, Leonhard Carow, Eddie Marsan.
Director: Steven Spielberg.

THE casualties of war extend far beyond the terrible loss of human life.

During the First World War, thousands of pigeons carried vital messages over long distances when other lines of communication were compromised.

Dogs detected mines and dug out victims of bomb blasts while millions of horses, donkeys and mules carried supplies and ammunition or charged into battle in the Allied cavalry.

Eight million horses perished in appalling conditions.

Author Michael Morpurgo expressed his debt of gratitude in the 1982 children's novel *War Horse*, which has been adapted into a breathtaking stage production on both sides of the Atlantic.

Now, Steven Spielberg directs this handsome Oscar-tipped film version of Morpurgo's heart-rending tale from a script by Richard Curtis and Lee Hall.

Alcohol-soaked farmer Ted Narracott (Peter Mullan) pays over the odds for a foal called Joey to spite landlord Lyons (David Thewlis) when he is supposed to be buying a plough horse.

Long-suffering wife Rose (Emily Watson) despairs, wondering how they will pay the rent, while son Albert (Jeremy Irvine) promises to train the animal to work the fields.

Ted tearfully acknowledges the error of his ways and fully expects his wife to abandon him.

"I might hate you more, but I'll



never love you less," Rose assures him tenderly.

When Europe goes to war, Ted sells Joey to Captain Nicholls (Tom Hiddleston), who promises to take good care of the mount.

Albert subsequently learns of tragedy on the battlefield and enlists in the army with best friend Andrew (Matt Milne) to track down Joey and return the horse to the farm.

Meanwhile, behind enemy lines, Joey is captured by the Germans and embarks on a momentous journey in the company of a young soldier called Gunther (David Kross) and a French girl (Celine Buckens) and her grandfather (Niels Arestrup).

War Horse is a deeply moving and sweeping drama that harnesses Spielberg's virtuosity behind the camera. The film-maker conjures

some breathtaking images, such as the deaths of two characters by firing squad which are obscured from view at the crucial moment by the tilting sail of a windmill.

Scenes in the trenches recall the pyrotechnic-laden hell of *Saving Private Ryan* and a pivotal scene of Joey ensnared in barbed wire in no man's land during the Second Battle of the Somme is genuinely horrifying.

Irvine is an endearing and steadfast hero, willing to die for his beloved horse, and the supporting cast embraces the script's earthy humour and sentimentality.

Invariably, the four-legged stars canter away with our tear-stained affections, beautifully embodying the millions of noble beasts which gave their lives for our freedom.

Jan 20, Young Choon Park.
 7.45pm. 01608 642350.

Events

Friday: Paul Sandilands exhibition. The Gallery, The Theatre, Spring Street, Chipping Norton. Until Jan 25, Paul Sandilands spent last winter painting and drawing the stage set, costumes and actors from our hit panto *Beauty and the Beast*. This year he's back to meet Ali Baba. Open during performances and films, Weds, Fris and Sats 11am-3pm. 01608 642350

Monday: Yoga class. Village Hall, Main Street, Wendlebury. 10.45-11.45am. For men and women, beginners and those with experience. 07917 453 224.

Wednesday: Sculpture lessons. Tooleys Boatyard, Banbury Museum, Spiceball Park Road, Banbury. A seven-week course (Wed/Thu). 7-9pm. For ages 12+. 01295 272917.

Wed doors 10.20am, film 10.30am, ends 12.04pm (audio-described). Autism friendly screening: Puss In Boots, U, Sun doors 11.20am, programme 11.30am, ends 12.57pm (audio-described). 0871 2244007.

The Theatre, 2 Spring Street, Chipping Norton: We Need To Talk About Kevin, Fri 7.30pm. The Three Musketeers, 12A, Sat 7.30pm. Twilight Saga - The Breaking Dawn Pt 1, 12A, Sun 7.30pm. Wuthering Heights, 15, Wed 7.30pm. 01608 642350 (Mon-Fri 10-6pm, Sat 10-2pm).

Theatre

Mill Arts Centre, Spiceball Park, Banbury: Jan 13-Jan 22, *Snow White and the Twenty Seven Dwarfs*. Tue-Fri 1pm, Tue-Sat 7.30pm; Sat-Sun 2.30pm. £9, concession £7. 01295 279002

The Theatre, Spring Street, Chipping Norton: Jan 19, *The Secret Garden*. 7.45pm.

Music

THURSDAY: White Hart, Sheep Street, Bicester: Cody - singer and guitarist. Free. 9.30pm. 01869 252789.

FRIDAY: Kings Arms Hotel, Market Square, Bicester: Decades. Duo covering hits. Free. 9pm. 01869 249040.

Ex Civil-Services Club, Sheep Street, Bicester: The Sheeps. Covers duo. 9pm. 01869 245367.

Cinema

Odeon, Horsefair, Banbury: Alvin and the Chipmunks - Chipwrecked, U, Sat-Sun 11.15am, 1.15pm. The Iron Lady, 12A, daily 3.30, 6.15, 9pm (subtitled Tue 3.30pm). War Horse, 12A, daily 2, 5.15, 8.30pm* (audio-described). Odeon Kids: Dolphin Tale, U, Sat doors 10.20am*, programme 10.30am, ends 12.22pm (audio-described). Senior Screen: Midnight In Paris, 12A,



Win tickets to the flicks

JUST so you feel like you really are at the movies, the Banbury Cake and Odeon Cinema Banbury have teamed up to offer you the chance to catch up on the latest action blockbusters, sci-fi epics and family friendly favourites.

Yes, that's right, every week in the Banbury Cake we'll be offering free tickets to go and see some of the silver screen's must-see movies.

And this week, we're dimming the lights and asking that all mobile phones be switched off for a pair of tickets to see *War Horse* showing at the Odeon cinema in Horsefair.

To stand a chance of winning, correctly answer the following question:

■ *War Horse* is directed by:

a. Stephen Sondheim

b. Steven Spielberg

c. Steven Soderbergh

Email your answer to

jeremy.smith@nqo.com by

noon, next Monday.

You must include a daytime telephone number as you will be contacted by phone. Normal Newsquest rules apply. The editor's decision is final. Good luck!

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Central Oxford

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Who are we?

We are an investment management company situated in the centre of Oxford. We are a group of around 50 people and blend the intellectual rigour of a leading research group with advanced technical implementation. Nobody comes to work in a suit and we are a social company.

Who do we want?

We want a professional and dependable PA to manage all areas of the Principal's workload. We need someone who is able to cope with the unexpected and remain calm and professional under pressure, whilst maintaining excellent organization skills and lines of communication. Due to the pivotal nature of this role you will have great communication skills with a warm and approachable manner. You will have proven ability to prioritise and be extremely organised. An aptitude for planning ahead is imperative in such a busy office. Experience of dealing with young academics as well as high level individuals would be of great benefit. You will be tactful, loyal and use immense discretion when handling confidential information.

Key responsibilities and duties include:

- Extensive meeting arrangements and complex diary management
- Management of Principal's personal arrangements (invoices, private home issues etc.)
- Extensive worldwide travel arrangements, including conference and meeting arrangements.
- Maintaining the channels of communication with company teams and departments
- Telephone and email correspondence
- Undertake a wide range of secretarial, clerical and administrative duties

Skills and competencies required:

- PA / Assistant experience essential
- Strong initiative and proven organizational skills required
- High level computer skills required, mainly Microsoft Office & Outlook
- Strong writing & editing skills with attention to detail
- Able and calm under pressure
- Excellent telephone manner
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Full -Time: 09:30-18:30

(variable and flexible with occasional hours at weekends)

Additional screening checks will be required for this role, in line with the firm's pre-engagement policies on recruitment (further information is available from HR).

Application Process:

Please email a cover letter outlining your relevant experience and attach your CV to: jobs@applytooxam.com
For a full job description please visit www.oxam.com/vacancies

Oxford
ASSET MANAGEMENT



Site & Facilities Manager

Oxford Spire Academy is looking for a Facilities Manager with proven experience in delivering a clean, welcoming, vibrant and safe school site. The successful candidate will be responsible for all aspects of the Academy grounds, buildings, environment and their users, ensuring their safety and security through day to day organisation. The post is responsible for the Site Team, for ensuring that the building management systems are working as efficiently and effectively as possible, through a preventative inspection and maintenance schedule, whilst at the same time ensuring essential works and maintenance jobs are completed on a priority basis. The Facilities Manager will also be responsible for health and safety across the site, ensuring that rules and regulations are implemented and adhered to and be responsible for the management of the Cleaning, Catering and Lettings teams.

Oxford Spire is currently in the feasibility stage of an £8m new build project to enhance the existing facilities. This is an exciting opportunity for a Manager with high expectations to join OSA through its major site development.

Salary circa £30,000, more may be available for an exceptional candidate.

For more details on the type of candidate we are looking for, and for further information on the job role and responsibilities, please see the job description and person specification on our website. For an informal discussion about the role or a visit to the academy please contact Sandie Alcock 01865 428200.

Please apply via sjaggers@oxfordspiresacademy.org or 01865 428200

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Temporary Teaching Assistant Supporting and Delivering Learning with a Literacy Focus Required for January 2012

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We are seeking to recruit a Teaching Assistant to work 29.5 hours per week, term-time only. The salary is Grade 6, Points 18-21, £17,161-£19,126 **pro-rata**.

This is a temporary contract from January 2012 to December 2012.

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Details of the post and an application form are available from Mrs Trish Morgan, PA to Headteacher.

Closing Date: Monday 23rd January at 1p.m.

Interviews during week commencing: 6th February



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Programme Co-ordinator to deliver a new community participation project and train early years staff and volunteers. This post is part-funded by the National Lottery through the Big Lottery Fund
£26,556 - £32,573

Senior Administrator to provide administrative support and co-ordination at a senior level across the organisation £20,804 - £26,556

Training Administrator to support and co-ordinate our training programme. This post is part-funded by the National Lottery through the Big Lottery Fund
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For an application pack please email info@henry.org.uk or write to HENRY, Summertown Pavilion, 18-24 Middle Way, Oxford, OX2 7LG

Closing date for all posts 2nd Feb 2012

HENRY is a registered charity in England & Wales, number 1132581.



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Closing date for receipt of applications is Monday 30th January, with interviews on Thursday 9th February.

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£1,250**Ford****FORD FIESTA GHIA**

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Versatile Combi wins space race

By David Duffy

‘What are you driving at the moment?’ a colleague asked. “A Nissan NV200,” I replied. What’s that?” he asked. “Err. It’s a people carrier-cum-van sort of vehicle,” came my unconvincing answer.

Nissan’s inventive description of the NV200 Combi is as a ‘compact passenger carrier’. On the road it certainly is compact, but with five- and seven-seater versions, and twin sliding rear doors it comes with the same cavernous interior as its award-winning sibling, the NV200 van.

Built on a modified and stretched version of the successful Renault Nissan Alliance road car B-platform, the NV200 is powered by a surprisingly punchy, 89 horsepower, 1.5-litre diesel engine.

A tight turning circle makes it brilliant for town driving, and even fully loaded, it zips along country roads. From the driver’s point of view there is a commanding driving position, excellent visibility and the simplest range of instrumentation imaginable.

Just one instrument faces you — the speedometer — but this also houses a digital rev counter and a

display that includes a clock, drive computer, trip and overall odometers and a shift-up gear display, which can be set by the driver to improve economy.

OK this is not the super-luxurious, whisper quiet, car-like travelling experience that many modern people carriers deliver, but the NV200’s real ace is space, acres of it.

The test model made the most of the Combi’s huge cabin, with a third row of seats. None of the seats needs to be removed from the vehicle to increase load space, since the second row folds and tumbles forward, while the two third-row seats fold up against the side panels.

And there is plenty of storage space, with oddment and document trays, door pockets, coin and card holders, cup and bottle holders and convenience hooks, dotted around the cabin. A secret storage space



LOADS OF ROOM: The Nissan NV200 has a huge and versatile cabin area

within the upper portion of the glovebox is large enough to hold a camera, mobile phone or important documents. There is also plenty of underseat storage, while a folding passenger seat back incorporates a moulded dished tray large enough to house a laptop computer.

All models come with a Bluetooth phone link. The SE grade test model also came with alloy wheels, body-coloured bumpers, air conditioning and a colour reversing camera, which helps to avoid any unnecessary bumps while parking.

Auto facts

Model: Nissan NV200 1.5D SE Combi
Price: £18,300 (inc VAT)
Insurance group: 11E
Fuel consumption (Combined): 53.3mpg
Top speed: 98mph
Length: 440cm/173.2in
Width: 169.5cm/66.7in
Luggage capacity: 2.9m3 (2nd and 3rd seats folded)
Fuel capacity: 12.1 gallons/55 litres
CO₂ emissions: 138g/km
Warranty: 3 years/100,000 miles

Usedcarscene

New checks could lead to financial worries

NEW MoT regulations due to come into force this year could leave car owners with financial headaches, according to insurance and warranty firm MB&G.

The new European legislation, which will see a minimum standard introduced across all EU member states, will be administered by the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency in the UK and includes more checks on some features already tested such as brakes, lights and steering suspension, but also new checks on electrical safety systems,

including electronic stability control.

Approximately 50 new checks are to be incorporated into the test, including:

- Anti-lock braking systems
- Tyre pressure monitoring systems
- Supplementary restraint systems including airbags and seat belt pre-tensioners
- Power steering systems
- Electronic parking brakes.

MB&G managing director David McPhee said: “Motorists should remember that having a full service history will greatly increase the value of their car

or van, while keeping them safe and legal on the road and enabling them to budget for the future without fear of those unpleasant, unplanned financial surprises.

“While the full impact of the new test is uncertain, the fact that even more components are now being covered could unsettle both would-be car buyers and service customers in these cash-conscious times.

“Drivers should, however, be aware that these systems which are now on the check list could be beneficial to drivers in the long run.”

Wheelsanddeals

■ **COUNTY** Chevrolet in Bicester is holding a special launch weekend on Saturday and Sunday, January 14 and 15, to celebrate the launch of the all-new Chevrolet Aveo, and is offering £1,000 discount across all Aveo models until the end of March. This means you can get hold of a new Chevrolet Aveo 1.2 LS from £8,995. The new Aveo has bold sporty styling with distinctive headlamps, Chevrolet dual-port grille, an integrated rear spoiler and rear hidden door handles as seen on the Spark. All models in the Aveo range include features such as hill start assist, cruise control, electrically adjustable heated door mirrors and air conditioning as standard.

■ **PORSCHE** is offering fans of the iconic 911 sports car the chance to create their ideal specification: one winner will get to drive that exact car at the Porsche Driving Centre at Silverstone. Entrants at www.porsche.co.uk need to specify their dream 911 and complete their details before January 31, 2012, and the winner will have their car built to their specification and get a half-day drive on the variety of circuits and surfaces at the Silverstone facility. The 991-generation Porsche 911 Carrera starts at £71,449, with the Carrera S available from £81,242.

■ **AUDI** has unveiled the maddest small hatchback to hit the market since the Renaultsport Clio V6. Dubbed the A1 quattro, the car is powered by a 252bhp four-cylinder turbocharged engine that makes it faster than a manual S3. There will only be 333 units made worldwide and there’s no word on price yet, but unfortunately they will all be left-hand-drive.

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2002	02	TOYOTA PREVIA GLS D4D. DIESEL.	7 Seater. Silver. One private local lady owner from new. Excellent condition. Good service history. Approximately 80000 recorded miles. Alloys. PAS. Aircon. Electric windows. Radio CD Player. Roof rails. Sold with a new MOT a full service and a new cambelt. HPI Clear.....	Arriving Weekend
2004	54	HONDA CIVIC 1.3 EXECUTIVE IMA (petrol/electric) HYBRID	4 door saloon, metallic blue, one owner, approximately 62,000 miles, FSH, leather interior, alloys, PAS, aircon, electric windows and mirrors, radio/CD, heated seats. Remarkable fuel economy, with Hondan reliability. Road tax £35 per year, sold with a new MOT, full service and a new cambelt.....	£4495
2003	53	HONDA CIVIC 1.6 'INSPIRE' S.	5 Doors. Metallic light blue. Approximately 58000 recorded miles. Excellent service record. PAS. Electric windows. Remote central locking. Electric heated door mirrors. Aircon. Radio/CD. Local car. Lovely condition throughout. Sold with a new MOT a full service and a new cambelt. HPI Clear.....	£3695
2005	05	NISSAN MICRA 'URBIS'.	3 door met silver, alloys, remote central locking, PAS, air con, electric windows, approx 50,000 recorded miles, lovely condition, sold with a new MOT, full service and a new cambelt.....	£3650
2001	51	SUBARU IMPREZZA WRX ESTATE 4WD.	Silver. Local car. Excellent condition throughout. Good service history. Alloys. PAS. Electric windows. Electric door mirrors. Radio/CD/Cassette. Sold with a new MOT a full service and a new cambelt. HPI Clear.....	£2995
2002	02	VAUXHALL VECTRA 1.8LS ESTATE.	Blue. 2 Owners. Excellent service record. PAS. Electric windows. Electric door mirrors. Roof rails. Airconditioning. Radio/CD. Approximately only 67000 recorded miles. Remote central locking. Lovely condition. Sold with a new MOT, a full service and a new cambelt. HPI Clear.....	£2550
2003	03	CITROEN C3 EXCLUSIVE AUTOMATIC 1.6.	Dark Green Metallic. 5 Doors. Local car. PAS. Electric windows. Central Locking. Small automatic 5 door hatchback. Nice condition throughout. Sold with a new cambelt a new MOT and a full service. HPI Clear.....	Arriving Weekend
2001	X	FORD MONDEO1.8 black.....		Arriving Weekend

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*Not available on Expression, ES, ES Tech & Tech line models. **Finance Deposit Allowance not available on Astra GTC. Finance provided by Vauxhall Finance, a trading style of GMAC UK plc, PO Box 6666, Cardiff, CF15 7YT. Finance is subject to status, terms and conditions. Applicants must be 18 years or over. Offer applies to private individuals, Vauxhall Partners and small businesses 1-24 (purchase only excluding B2B). All other customers are excluded. Offer available on orders or registrations before 02 April 2012. †Vauxhall Lifetime Warranty covers lifetime ownership of first registered keeper, 100,000 mile limit. Terms and conditions apply. ^Customer deposit shown after deduction of Vauxhall contribution.

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BMW 330i 3i Sport Coupe, 2005/55, Metallic Grey, 55000mls, leather, alloys, CD, cruise, climate, r/lock	£8499
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BMW Z4 2.5 Roadster Auto, 2003, Metallic Grey, 59000mls, leather, e/roof, alloys, CD, fogs, r/lock	£6999
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BMW 545i SE Auto, 2004, Metallic Grey, 61000mls, leather, sat nav, alloys, CD, cruise, l drive, pdc.....	£7999
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Period home is certainly plush

By Gill Oliver

HIGH House in Adderbury is a north Oxfordshire village property with flexible living space.

The 18th-century, four-storey house has a one-bedroom annex which includes a sitting room, kitchen and bathroom, plus three more bedrooms.

A sitting room on the upper ground floor has an open fireplace with wood-burning stove and balcony, while the lower ground floor houses a dining room and kitchen.

Period features include exposed

stonework, beamed ceilings, window seats and bay windows.

There is also a garage and garden with lawns and a patio.

Owner Nik Lester said: "The house was built around 1730 and there is an archway at the front and back which we believe is from when it used to be an old coaching inn.

"The other theory is that this building was where plush was made for railway carriages."

High House in Adderbury is on the market for £500,000. For more information, contact agents Hamptons on 01295 275885 or visit hamptons.co.uk

Another period property is a former 18th-century public house in

Chipping Norton. Originally The Ship and Anchor, it includes a living room with wood burner plus a separate snug/study.

There are three double bedrooms on the first floor and a master bedroom en suite above.

The house has many original features including window seats, exposed timbers, open fireplaces and a beer cellar.

A timber building in the garden with double glazing, power and lighting is used as a workspace.

Number 3 Spring Street, Chipping Norton is on the market for £410,000. For more information, contact agents Cridlands on 01869 3435600 or visit cridlands.co.uk



High House in Adderbury; inset, Spring Street, Chipping Norton

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£149,950 o.n.o

Waltham Gardens

- Two bedrooms Kitchen Lounge/diner Bathroom Enclosed garden Parking Close to M40, Train station and the town centre Ideal for first time buyers and investment



£149,000

Warwick Road

- This property offers:- Three bedrooms Two reception rooms Kitchen Bathroom Garden Close to the town centre No chain Would benefit from some modernisation Gas central heating Doubt glazing

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Orchard Way

- Two bedrooms Lounge/diner Kitchen Bathroom Enclosed Garden No Chain Terrace Gas central heating Would benefit from some updating



£195,000

Usher Drive

- This property offers:- Three bedroom Home Lounge Dining room Kitchen En suite to master bedroom Family Bathroom Rear garden Garage in block



£795

Albert Street

- This property Offers:- Good size three bedroom Town centre location Two reception rooms



Kitchen Downstairs w/c Lean to/utility



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bloxham road

- Three bedrooms Two receptions Kitchen/breakfast room Lean to

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